

Council of Governments Method of Distribution Citizen Participation Plan for Round 2.2 Disaster Recovery Supplemental Allocation

Summary Information

Contact Information

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Citizen and Non-Governmental Organization Outreach

The Council of Government will encourage citizens, with particular emphasis on persons of low-to-moderate income who are residents of slum or blighted areas, to submit their views regarding community development and housing needs resulting from the disaster in the following ways:

Citizens will be encouraged, through the SETRPC website, public notices, press releases and the Method of Distribution (MOD) prepared for public review to submit their views and comments regarding community development and housing needs resulting from the disaster. Citizens will be instructed to submit comments in writing to the SETRPC via written letter, email or by attending scheduled public hearings to make comments in person.

The following local organizations that provide services or housing for low-to-moderate income persons, including but not limited to, the local Public Housing Authorities, the local Health and Human Services offices, the local Mental Health and Mental Retardation offices, Community Development Corporations and Community Housing Development Organizations, will receive written notification concerning the date, time, location and topics to be covered at the method of distribution public hearings:

Beaumont Housing Authority, Port Arthur Housing Authority, Orange Housing Authority, Beaumont Health and Human Services Office, Port Arthur Health and Human Services Office, Orange Health and Human Services Offices , Silsbee Health and Human Services Offices, Southeast Texas Community Development, Statewide Consolidated Community Development, Beaumont Community Housing, Legacy Community Housing Development Organization, Savannah Community Housing Development Corporation, Spindletop Center Mental Health Services, Southeast Texas Workforce Development Board, Hardin County Emergency Family Services, Some Other Place, United Board of Missions, Orange Christian Services, Community Care Prayer Outreach, Catholic Charities, Golden Triangle Interfaith, Southeast Texas Interfaith Organization, Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Social Services, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Boat People SOS. In addition to these entities, local elected officials and local media outlets will receive written notification regarding scheduled public hearings.

The following organizations interested in fair housing issues and representing protected classes of individuals will be contacted to gain additional perspective on fair housing and civil rights issues in the region, and how the people they represent were affected by Hurricanes Dolly and/or Ike. Approaches beyond simple written notification of public hearings are required and detailed below:

NAACP Beaumont Branch, NAACP Port Arthur Branch, LULAC – Southeast Texas Branch, Boat People SOS – Southeast Texas Branch, Beaumont Housing Authority, Port Arthur Housing Authority, Orange Housing Authority, Disability Rights Texas - Southeast Texas Branch, Spindletop Center Mental Health Services.

Along with written notification to each entity above, the SETRPC will be releasing information to local media outlets (print and radio) informing them of upcoming public hearings and topics of discussion. See list of special media outlets to be contacted below that serve protected classes in Southeast Texas.

The Council of Government acknowledges that language differences may play a role in effectively reaching non-English speaking residents. The Council of Government will address these potential barriers by providing notification efforts as follows:

Notices of public hearings will be provided in English, Spanish and Vietnamese text. Notices will be posted in the regional Southeast Texas newspaper (The Beaumont Enterprise), on the SETRPC's website and will be forwarded to all cities and counties in the Southeast Texas area to be posted. Notices will also be sent to El Perico (Hispanic newspaper), Cumulus Broadcasting host of La Gran D (Hispanic radio station), Radio Saigon (Vietnamese radio station), LULAC – League of United Latin American Citizens (Hispanic Advocacy Group) and Boat People SOS (Vietnamese Advocacy Group).

Public Hearing Content

The public hearings will include a discussion of the following topics:

- The development of housing and community development needs resulting from the storm
- The amount of funding available
- All eligible activities under the Texas Community Development Block Grant Supplemental Disaster Recovery program, including linking activities to the storm through direct damage or failure to function
- The Council of Government's past distribution of TxCDBG Supplemental Disaster Recovery funds
- The Council of Government's draft Method of Distribution
- The COG must submit a completed Fair Housing Activity Statement – Texas Form ("FHA Form") with the MOD.

Required Meeting and Public Hearing Information

To the extent possible, the Council of Government will adhere to the following schedule of hearings and notifications:

Posting of Draft Method of Distribution for Public Review

Date/Time: 10/19/2011 – 5:00 p.m.

Website Address: www.setrpc.org

First Public Hearing Scheduling Information

Date/Time: 10/13/2011 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC)
2210 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77703

Notification consistent with GLO requirements will be provided on or before the following dates:

Date Personal Notice of Hearing will be sent to entities:

10/07/2011

Date Notice of Hearing will be published on COG Website:

10/07/2011

Date Notice of Hearing will be published on Secretary of State Website:

10/07/2011

Date Notice of Hearing will be published in regional newspaper(s):

10/09/2011

Second Public Hearing Scheduling Information

Date/Time: 10/27/2011 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC)
2210 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, TX 77703

Notification consistent with GLO requirements will be provided on or before the following dates:

Date Personal Notice of Hearing will be sent to entities:

10/07/2011

Date Notice of Hearing will be published on COG Website:

10/07/2011

Date Notice of Hearing will be published on Secretary of State Website:

10/07/2011

Date Notice of Hearing will be published in regional newspaper(s):

10/09/2011

The COG understands public hearings shall be held at a time and location compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and convenient to potential or actual beneficiaries. The hearing must include accommodations for persons with disabilities, including provision of auxiliary aids. The COG will accommodate these needs in the following ways:

Public hearing locations will be fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Public hearing announcements will include information on accessibility request for individuals requiring an interpreter, auxiliary aids or other services.

The COG understands its responsibility to provide interpretive services when a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate in the public hearing. If these services are determined to be necessary, the COG will address this need as follows:

Should a significant number of non-English residents be expected at any of the SETRPC's scheduled public hearings, Spanish and Vietnamese interpreters will be in attendance to provide assistance.

Efforts Exceeding Minimum Participation Requirements

The GLO has encouraged Councils of Governments to aggressively seek public participation when developing the method of distribution. In pursuit of this goal, the Council of Governments held additional meetings and took other additional actions as follows:

In addition to the two public hearings required by GLO, the SETRPC is hosting a Roundtable Discussion Meeting with Special Interest and Advocacy Groups in the Southeast Texas Region. This meeting is currently scheduled for October 14, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

Once complete, the SETRPC will have a draft version of the MOD posted on its website and available at its offices for public review. We will ask all local cities and counties to post hearing notices in their public areas as well as have a copy of the MOD available for public review.